

At 6:05 pm the Board's meeting was called to order in the basement meeting room at the Fremont Town Hall. Present were Selectmen Greta St Germain, Annmarie Scribner, and Brett Hunter; and Town Administrator Heidi Carlson.

Selectman Scribner discussed follow-up on the Joint Boards of Selectmen meeting last week in Chester. The information was reviewed, and the Board would like to make arrangements to be at the next joint meeting as there is planned to be an agenda item for voting to include the Secretary of State being in attendance. The next meeting is in Kingston and Scribner will confirm the date so the Board's meeting schedule can be adjusted if needed.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Selectmen reviewed the minutes for 16 February 2012. Scribner moved to approve the minutes as amended to include correction of some typographical errors. St Germain seconded and the vote was approved 2-0-1 with Scribner abstaining as she was not at the meeting.

2. The Town Hall Renovations was added to the list of goals for 2012.

St Germain offered some background information on the Seacoast United project and that she had spoken with DES today. The recent letter from DES was also reviewed.

3. Carlson updated the Board on the status of the Safety Complex Energy Grant Project #203 for the solar hot water system. The contractor has been away from the site for several weeks, and calls to the office and project manager have not been returned. Carlson has contacted TRC, the Grant Administrator relative to the appropriate steps for the Town to take.

4. Selectmen were updated that the mediated settlement has been finalized for Case #435-2010-CU-192 and the Town received the final payment of \$2,000.

At 6:45 pm Nicole Cloutier and new Parks & Recreation candidate Elizabeth Torre met with the Board. Cloutier introduced Elizabeth Torre and said she had been involved with Recreation activities over the past year.

Torre detailed out many of her current activities and involvement in the Fremont community. She has been actively working with the Parks & Recreation Commission and would like to fill the open seat. After further review of her many accomplishments and community projects, a motion was made by Scribner to appoint Elizabeth Karen Torre to the open one year seat on the Parks & Recreation Commission to expire in March 2013. St Germain seconded and the vote was unanimously approved 3-0. Torre took the appointment form after it had been signed to get up to the Town Clerk's Office to be sworn in this evening. Both women left the meeting at 6:55 pm.

5. The Board of Selectmen adopted the following Mission Statement for the Board:

Mission Statement

The Board of Selectmen is an elected body of three (3) members. The Board of Selectman generally meet every Thursday evening at 6:00 pm at the Town hall or as posted. For additional information about the Selectman's meeting schedule, please contact the Board of Selectmen office.

The mission statement for this Board is as follows:

The Board of Selectmen will endeavor to secure confidence in the leadership of the community and will actively seek to develop open lines of communication with the Town's Boards and Committees. The Fremont Board of Selectmen will seek opportunities to work with the leadership of other communities on ideas that may conserve natural and financial resources.

To provide services that promotes the health and safety of residents and a high quality of life, while preserving and protecting the natural resources of the Town.

To foster high standards of public service and effective cooperation among Town employees by providing a supportive work environment and competitive compensation, by recognizing excellent performance, and being responsive to the needs and interest of Town employees

Through example and expression of its own commitment, the Board of Selectmen will encourage and expect that all services will be delivered courteously and at a high level of commitment to the taxpayer. The services provided must enhance the quality of life for the residents of the community.

To create a sense of community within the Town, while recognizing the "mixed" diverse nature of the community.

6. Selectmen reviewed the Security Benefit 401(a) plan enrollment paperwork. A couple of additional questions were generated and it will be brought back for reconsideration next week.

7. Selectmen reviewed a second draft of the Fund Balance Policy and made some additional changes. Another revision will be brought back for review next week.

8. Selectmen reviewed the Smith Deed and Executory Interest paperwork. This has been forwarded to the Smith's for review as well.

9. Selectmen discussed the progress on the new website. St Germain will work on the Highway Study Committee page, and Gene Cordes will be contacted about the Budget Committee and Energy Committee pages. The Board's mission statement will also be submitted. The "go live" date is slated for the end of March.

10. To follow up the discussion last week, Carlson advised the Board that the auditor's will plan to meet with the Board once the report is done.

11. With regard to the North Road stone wall, Steve Tomasz reported about two weeks ago that he would shortly be headed back to the site as snow is melted.

12. Selectmen reviewed a letter from SRRDD 53-B. The District is soliciting input from members towns regarding the upcoming RFP/contract process for solid waste disposal. The current contract with Waste Management will expire on June 30, 2015. Selectmen generated a list of follow-up that will be prepared in a letter to the District to include that recycling should be considered for inclusion in the contract, and that other towns should also be allowed to opt in for an increase (thus reduced shared costs). The Board thought that two hazardous waste days were sufficient, and that considering options outside simple tonnage/landfill disposal (or other green options) was a good idea. Carlson will draft this letter to get out by the March 2nd requested response deadline.

13. There was discussion about a proposed PSNH program to reduce use of street lights by shutting them off at midnight. For safety reasons the Board felt the Town should maintain the few street lights we have.
14. Selectmen further discussed an extended warranty for the new Highway Truck. The Board felt this was a prudent investment. Scribner moved to approve \$3,995 for an extended power train warranty on the new highway truck. St Germain seconded and the vote was unanimously approved 3-0.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Selectmen reviewed the accounts payable manifest \$515,620.04 and invoices for the current week dated 24 February 2012. Scribner moved to approve the manifest. St Germain seconded and the vote was unanimously approved 3-0.
 2. Selectmen reviewed the folder of incoming correspondence and bills for payment for next week.
 3. Selectmen signed an outgoing letter to Peter Gilligan. The Board discussed meeting with Building Inspector and Planning Board Secretary regarding the building permit process. They asked for this to be set up at 6:00 pm on Thursday March 8.
 4. Budget reports for the period ending 01/31/2012 were distributed for members and the Budget Committee to read, via email on Tuesday 02/21/2012.
 5. The Board asked for time to be set aside on March 8 to work on employee reviews.
 6. Carlson discussed some pending fee schedule changes with the Board and advised once all are compiled that a public hearing will be set for late in March. Selectmen discussed an event fee and asked for additional research to be done on this as well.
 7. There was discussion about the Supervisor of Checklist pay rate which has been carried in the budget at \$10.30 but the payroll system is set at \$10.00. The Board agreed to increase it to be consistent moving forward and authorized the change. A letter will be prepared to record the correction.
 8. Selectmen reviewed a request from Chief Janvrin to install one way glass in the service window at the Fremont Police Department due to privacy issues. He also submitted a quote for the work. The Board discussed it and suggested that he consider moving the items in the office to better use the existing space and alleviate the need for the one way glass. The Board asked for him to provide more information about why it is necessary versus reorganizing the office. If needed, the Board asked Chief Janvrin to come to the next non-work session meeting on March 15th.
 9. Board members were asked to mark their calendars for the Fremont Planning Board Public Input Sessions for Amendment of the Visioning Chapter of the Fremont Master Plan. These sessions will take place in the main floor meeting room at the Fremont Town Hall at 7:30 pm on Wednesday May 2, 2012, and at 10:00 am on Saturday May 5, 2012.
 10. Selectmen signed a supplemental tax warrant for parcel 07-996.
 11. Copies of a draft Capital Assets and Depreciation Policy were distributed for the Board to do a first read.
- Carlson was asked to send out the Fraud Policy, Investment Policy and Credit Card-Fuel Key Policy each for the annual review.

Carlson presented the January audit trail spreadsheet from the QuickBooks program. The Auditor's have recommended that the Board review this report on a regular basis. Due to the length of the paper copy, Board members requested that it be emailed out for their further review.

At 7:30 pm Chris Albert of Jones and Beach Engineers met with the Board. He stated he was an Engineer and Wetland Scientist contracted by Seacoast United to address the DES letter. Tim Farrell, who is in charge of maintenance at the fields was present and stated that owner Paul Willis was unable to be present this evening. Also present were abutters and neighbors Fred and Lizanne Lindahl, Steven St Germain, John Oranczak, and Erin and Jeff Arsenault.

Discussion began with questions about the tree cutting that had taken place in October 2011 at the site. Farrell said Paul Willis did not have any intent to cut trees, and that he (Farrell) had asked Matthew Jensen while on site, to look at what trees could be removed to allow more sun on the fields and help alleviate icing, as well as those which could fall on the fields. Farrell said he was the one who did snow removal and he described the problem about how the sun comes across the fields and the tall trees put shade on the fields. If it melts during the day and freezes at night, it hurts the field as they have to pick at it to remove the ice, and risk damaging the turf. He also said that the black ice causes an injury potential for those playing on the fields.

Greta St Germain said that she and Mrs Lindahl had a conversation with Jensen and he specifically said that Mr Willis had authorized the trees, and asked if he had the authority to have trees cut on the site without the owner's knowledge.

Farrell said he did and that Mr Willis had no knowledge.

There was discussion about why games were being played on the fields in February when the approval was for a three season field. Neighbors present stated that was not the intent ever expressed by the owner during the approval process.

Chris Albert said that hours of operation is a Planning Board Site Plan Review matter and that he was here tonight to deal with the logging that was done and correcting the DES notice of Deficiency which has been issued. The State of NH DES is involved because of the infringement on the prime wetland buffer with the tree cutting.

In response to questions and concerns, Albert discussed the turf material (described as a rubberized pellet) used in the fields indicating his research thus far indicated it was not hazardous. He said that if it were hazardous, it would not be used in fields all over the country. He also said that that the long term environmental impacts of keeping these fields upgraded with fertilizer and water, if they were live grass, would also be a concern for neighbors.

Albert again said he was here to mitigate the damage of the trees coming down. Albert explained that the logger Matthew Jensen was there today as a volunteer in good faith to remove the slash. The owner has retained Jones & Beach to do the appropriate follow-up to the DES notice of deficiency. Neighbors expressed their concern with the sound because the trees are gone; and the additional light now visible because the trees are gone. They stated that these natural barriers were part of the plan so that they would not have to see lights and have sound. There were additional plantings that were also supposed to be there as another protection for the fields and the neighbors.

Fred Lindahl said lights are more pervasive than originally discussed and they are running games year round. He said it is a benefit that kids are there; but there are many adult male league games going on at 10 pm; and the site has continued to become more invasive than was ever portrayed to the abutters.

The neighbors referred back to their initial meetings (in their homes) with Paul Willis and that he has not completed the things he said he would do, including some of the approval conditions.

Neighbors said that sometimes lights are left on all night. Farrell said that the site was recently vandalized, and that it included theft of the keys to those light. Neighbors said that football and lacrosse were never outlined at the beginning. They also stated that the Epping High School Band and football team had also been there playing one evening until 11 pm. (It was noted that hours of operation are approved only until 10 pm.)

There was discussion about the incomplete or non-compliant items that need to go to the Planning Board for site review consideration.

Albert said that today's immediate issue is the DES order to remove the trees within seven (7) days. Given the timing on his receipt of that letter, the DES has extended the timeline to March 3, 2012. Albert said he was a certified wetlands scientist and that he would be working with Dan Cyr of Bay State Foresters, who he is meeting on site next Tuesday.

Albert said a condition of the NH DES approval is that a forest management plan be done within 60 days. Albert will be working with the forester on this.

There was extended general discussion on hours of operation and maintenance, which needs to be a Planning Board discussion.

Steve St Germain asked about the rubberized turf pellets getting into the wetlands. Albert said he was still researching the situation and MSDS sheets; but there are no hazards. He said he continues to research. Neighbors expressed concern that rubber tires are prohibited from landfills, and questioned how they could be OK in this ground application.

Albert said that the logging that was done, if a proper management plan was in place, would have been OK and that DES would have let them cut trees in the prime wetland.

It was discussed that the placards were not set up along conservation easement area, thus Matthew Jensen did not know where that line was.

Albert agreed that the Forestry Management plan was not done, but will be completed. The required plantings were not done, and there are several other site conditions and expansion of the original approval that need to be addressed by the Fremont Planning Board. Albert agreed that the best solution would be to bring in an amended site plan application and have a Planning Board hearing that would include abutter notification.

Several times it was stated that Paul Willis should have done these things when he promised to do so in good faith, and that his avoidance of the neighbors is noted and of great concern.

Abutters need to go before the Planning Board to discuss their concerns, and could do so at an amendment hearing. Abutters said they are looking for a robust barrier of some sort that will further protect the neighbors from noise light and pellet runoff.

Lizanne Lindahl said that Mr Willis came to the neighbors as a good neighbor and as a supporter of children. Since that time of his discussions with neighbors, he has changed the playing fields and is now a for profit organization. She said she wishes he would be here now to speak with abutters to resolve this together as a good neighbor.

Albert again said that he was here to introduce himself and let them know what else was going on to get the logs out. He stressed that they don't want to create more damage to the area. Eben Lewis of NH DES said an inventory is required, and the Forester will do this.

He said in addition to taking care of the NH DES matters, that they would pursue a parallel approach with the Fremont Planning Board for an amended site plan application.

Albert said they will get the logs out in accord with the DES regulations and letter, and will continue working on the Forest Management Plan.

Oranczak, Steve St Germain, the Arsenaults and the Lindahls left the meeting at 8:16 pm.

Albert said he would consider an amendment to the Site plan as it was viewed as a better proactive position than waiting for further enforcement action to take place.

There was further discussion about design considerations related to the runoff matters.

Albert and Farrell left the meeting at 8:20 pm.

Selectmen further discussed the situation and a copy of the minutes and a letter will be drafted to the Planning Board for their further action on the non-compliance items outstanding at the Seacoast United Soccer site.

The next regular Board meeting will be held on Thursday March 1, 2012.

With no further business to come before the Board, motion was made by Scribner and seconded by St Germain to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 pm. The vote was approved 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Carlson
Town Administrator